

KRAB KRONICLE

506th Aerospace Expeditionary Group

EXPEDITIONARY AIRMEN • SUSTAINING GLOBAL REACH • MAINTAINING AIR DOMINANCE
AND SUPPORT • TO STABILIZE A NATION • SO FREEDOM CAN FLOURISH



Vol. 1, Issue 14

Freedom Air Base, Iraq

August 1, 2003

Team RIO helps restore gas facility

*Event marks
another milestone
for northern Iraq*

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Getsy
506th Air Expeditionary Group
Public Affairs

Another milestone was reached in northern Iraq when coalition forces and Kirkuk City officials teamed up to restore the first liquid propane gas bottling facility since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During a ceremony July 26, military and civilian officials flipped the power switch on the first of three bottling lines at the Bajwan LPG Bottling Plant.

The facility, located just outside the city's limits, produces propane for use throughout the county of Kirkuk and other outlying areas. The Iraqi people primarily use the propane gas for home and restaurant cooking fuel. This bottled product was in low supply because the facility was completely looted after the war and was not operational. Since then, the Iraqi people have relied on coalition forces to meet propane shortfalls by importing from other countries.

Helping get the plant up and running again was the 404th Civil Affairs

See "RIO" on page 4

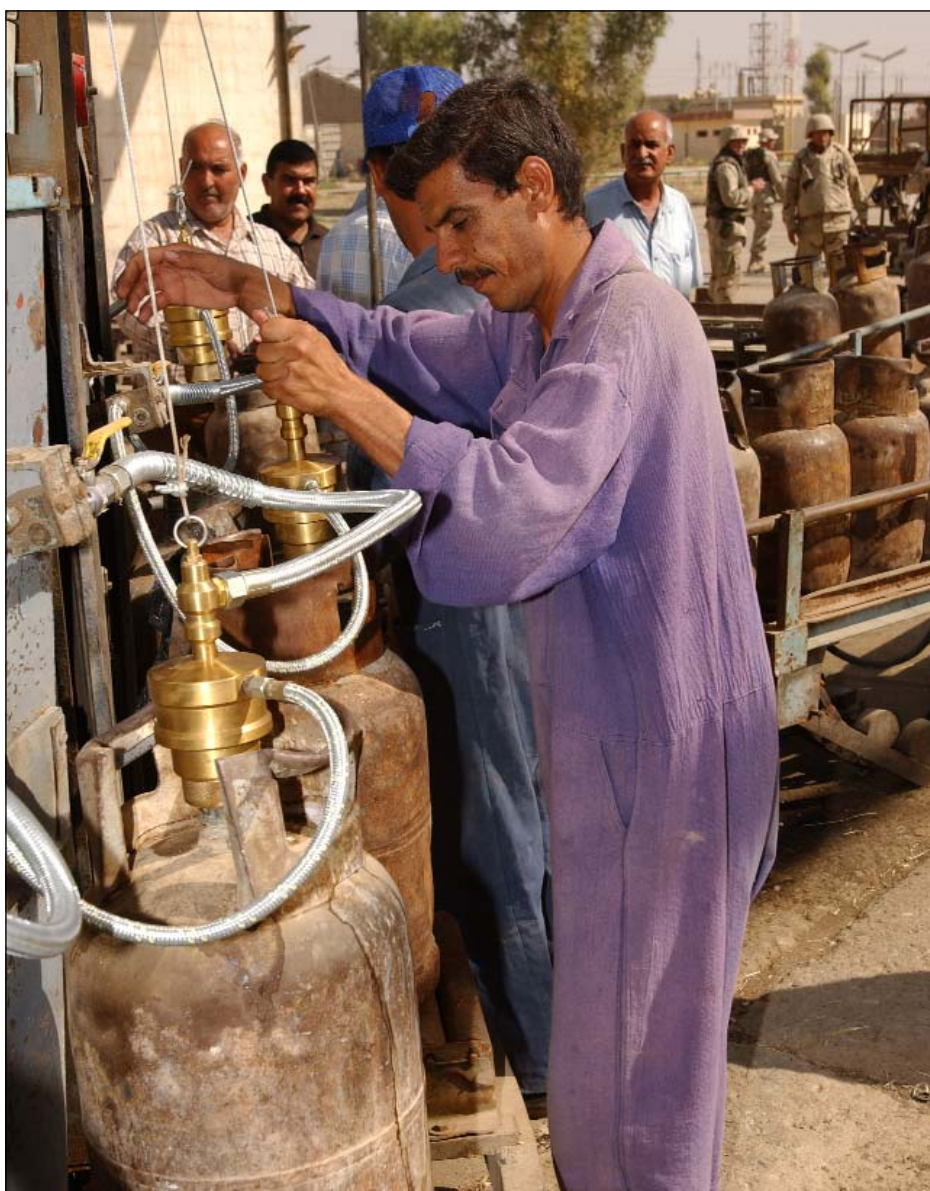


Photo by Staff Sgt. James Williams

A worker at the Bajwan Bottling Facility fills up propane tanks minutes after the plant reopened for the first time since the war.

They're movin' in ... to Tent City

By Chief Master Sgt. Jack Skaggs
506th Air Expeditionary Group
Command Chief Master Sergeant

Over the next few months, the Ten Days From Tomorrow area will grow in population. That growth will be stimulated by the arrival of many of our fellow Americans that wear the same uniform as us, with the exception of a few different accouterments.

These men and women are members of the U.S. Army. We, that are current residents of TDFT - predominately Air Force personnel, are reaping the windfall of what our fellow patriot in arms have accomplished, are accomplishing, and will accomplish outside the outer boundaries of what we affectionately call "Freedom Air Base."

The U.S. Army and many of our U.S. Air Force members have tasted battle on numerous occasions, by looking into the barrel of an AK-47, rocket propelled grenade, and mortar and artillery emplacements. Many have been injured and wounded physically or mentally over the past few months and some have gone home in a Flag Draped Coffin. But, that was and is their duty, they do not shirk it, and they do it extremely well.

Their sacrifice, courage, and tenacity are the cornerstones of the freedom so many of us enjoy today, "inside the wire." As our U.S. Army counterparts



Photo by Staff Sgt. James A. Williams

A soldier from the 1-63rd Armor Task Force provides security.

become a more visible injection into the confines of TDFT, they will enjoy many of the same benefits we as U.S. Air Force residents enjoy.

They will have a decent bed to sleep in, a cool tent, a hot meal available to them, access to the Cyber Café, theater, and laundry service.

In the future, the Army's 173rd Brigade will have access to an expanded laundromat and gymnasium. In return, our Army counterparts will assist with our bus transportation, food service, and "Tidy Friday" activities. They will deploy security guards in their sector and become coworkers with our billeting and mayoral staffs.

As my position counterpart at the 173rd Brigade, Command Sgt. Maj. Wade Gunter, says, "we are ONE TEAM-ONE FIGHT, and we are all

made of the same red, white, and blue cloth.

As our commander, Col. Jim Callahan put it, "find the first soldier you can, and thank him or her; thank them for their service to our nation; thank them for performing their mission with bravery and valor ... you are safe inside the wire because of their action. Thank them for their dedication to the mission, for they will be here, taking the fight to the enemy, long after you have departed for home.

Thank them, and you'll discover that they are just as willing to thank you, for your service, courage and dedication to duty."

These fellow Americans deserve our respect for their unselfish sacrifice and courage. All we need to do is make our Army counterparts feel welcome.



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The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office of this installation. All photo-

graphs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

The KRAB KRONICLE accepts stories, photographs and commentaries, which may be submitted to the PA staff at the group headquarters building or can be e-mailed to victoria.meyer@krab.aorcentaf.af.mil

Submission deadline is noon, Monday the week before publication. All submissions are edited for content and Air Force journalistic style.

For more information, visit the PA office in the 506th AEG HQ building or call 460-0132.

(Flag is courtesy of Michelle Butzgy, Pope AFB, N.C.)

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Commander

Maj. Roger Lawson

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Tech. Sgt. Mark Getsy

NCOIC, Public Affairs

Senior Airman Lee Smith

Editor

News briefs

Sports Day

The base will host Sports Day Aug. 8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Among the 10 events will include a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, relay races, tug-of-war, horseshoes, volleyball, a soccer shootout, three-legged and dizzy bat races and more.

Squadrons and Army units can sign up at the fitness center, the main base recreation center or the Cantina.

For more information, call 460-0271.

FedEx available

Federal Express is now available for official Air Force small parcel shipments. Services can be requested and are processed through the traffic management office.

Inbound services need to be coordinated through either origin TMO's or organizations that have existing official FedEx accounts. Services for personal parcels will begin soon. For more information, call 460-0039.

New dining hall

The new dining hall now serves three meals a day: breakfast from 4:30 - 7:30 a.m., lunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and dinner from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. The lunch and dinner menu is printed daily in the Krabloid.

Don't throw away uniforms

All personnel who do not want to bring their uniforms back home must turn them in to be burned. The fire department will dispose of all uniforms with the exception of boots or shoes.

Uniforms can be dropped off at the fire department or at the lodging tent. Throwing away a uniform is a violation of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice.

For more information, call 460-0030.

Redeployment briefings

Redeployment briefings are held

every Tuesday at 8 a.m. in the deployment processing center, in the large clam shell near the base exchange.

For more information, call 460-0625.

Right Start briefing

The Right Start briefing for new arrivals is held every Tuesday at 6 a.m. in the deployment processing center.

For more information, call 460-0625.

Monthly awards ceremony

The monthly awards ceremony will take place Monday from 7:30 to 9 a.m. in the Deployment Processing Center clam shell. The ceremony is open to everyone.

Tent city smoking policy

Smoking is permitted only in designated areas and at least 25 feet from the tents. Additionally, people should not move the butt cans or place normal garbage in them.

Warrior of the Week

**Staff Sgt.
Craig Wright**
506th Expeditionary
Operations Support
Squadron

Home station:
Sheppard AFB, Texas
Arrived in AOR: July
30

Family: wife, Kumi;
son, Alex

Hobbies: Sports of
any kind to include
memorabilia

How do you contribute to the mission of the 506th

AEG? As an air traffic controller with the EOSS, I'm part of a fantastic team whose goal is to provide the best service possible and help make air travel safe.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment? To finally see where I fit in as an air traffic controller in the big scheme of things.
Besides your family, what luxury do you miss most about the



Photo by Senior Airman Lee S. Smith

states? Sleeping in my own bed.
What food do you miss the most? Since I like

many different kinds of food, I would have to say a home-cooked meal.

RIO

(From page 1)

Battalion and Team Restore Iraqi Oil, or Team RIO, which consists of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Kellogg, Brown and Root contractors; and the Iraqi Oil Ministry.

Their mission is to do what is necessary to provide for repair and continuity of operations of the Iraqi oil infrastructure.

During the ceremony, Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, commander and division engineer, U.S. Army Engineer Division, Southwestern and Team RIO commander, said in his remarks that he was delighted to be part of the ceremony.

"What is happening this morning is a very significant event. There's a lot of people who need to be thanked for this, and I think the most important people of all are the Iraqi people," Crear said. "Your dedication and hard work is second to none. We're very proud to be part of your team."

According to Nola Conway, Team RIO public affairs

officer, the bottling line activated during the ceremony was the oldest of the three lines.

It was restored first because it's a mechanical system and was the easiest to repair.

She said the team felt it was very important to get at least one line operational so propane can start being produced and distributed to the local residents. Team Rio is currently working on making the other two lines operational.

The Bajwan facility, built in 1975 by a Danish company, was the largest bottling facility in the county prior to the war. It was able to process approximately 25,000 cylinders daily.

The newly finished line can now produce 23 cylinders simultaneously.

The only other operating facility in Kirkuk could only produce 9,000.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charlein Sheets

C-wire to wire

Staff Sgt. Dennis Hernton, left, and Senior Airman Jeremy Marshall, vehicle operators with the 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, palletize a roll of razor wire at Baghdad International Airport July 25. The two were part of a re-supply convoy traveling from Kirkuk to Baghdad and back again.

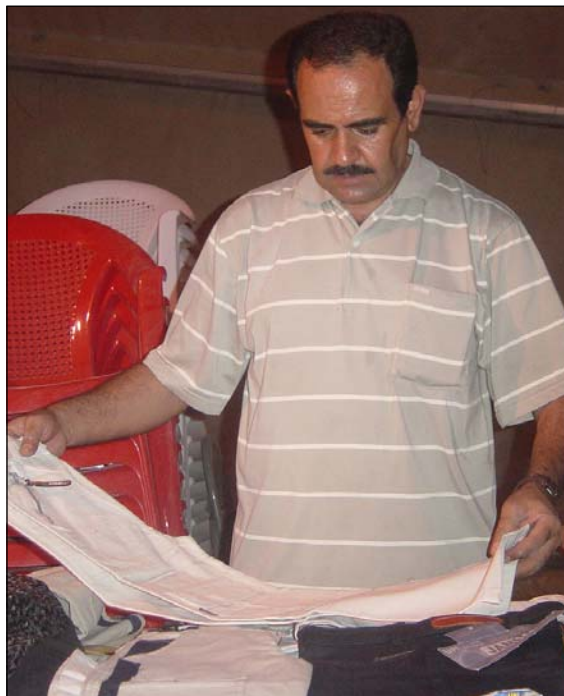
Bazaar-filled weekend at Kirkuk

Local Iraqi merchants unfold some rugs while setting up for the bazaar at the deployment processing center clamshell Saturday. The base periodically hosts vendors to sell local merchandise. Items normally include rugs, slippers and other materials unique to Iraq.

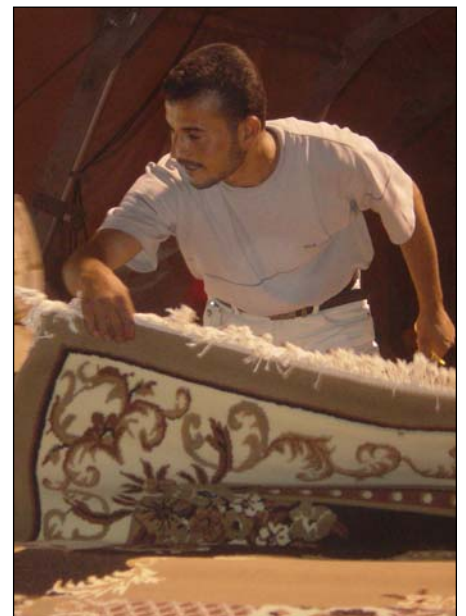
Photos by Senior Airman Lee S. Smith



A vendor puts some cloth up for sale at the Bazaar.



A local vendor sorts through his merchandise prior to the bazaar opening.



A local vendor prepares a rug to be sold at the Bazaar this past weekend.

De ja vu for Vietnam vet in Iraq

**Story and photo by
Senior Airman Lee Smith**
Krab Kronicle editor

Master Sgt. Terry Upchurch, 506th Operations Support Squadron, has a unique perspective on Iraq, as he compares this experience with one he had 35 years ago as an 18-year old airman ... in Vietnam.

"I had been married only three months," he said. "I was an air traffic controller and they told me I was needed. I was very afraid: there were no hardened aircraft shelters for the aircraft and our enemies were launching rockets at our aircraft. I was fortunate to have survived some of those blasts. Unfortunately, not everyone I was with was as lucky."

Upchurch said that when he stepped off the plane here earlier this year, it took him back in time.

"My first thought when I got off the plane at Vietnam was 'Everything is green; the buildings are green, the vehicles in the road are green, the uniforms people are wearing are green,'" he said. "Here my first thought was 'Everything is brown: the buildings are brown, the sand is brown, the uniforms are brown.' Only the color has changed in 30 years."

He also noted the conditions here were different from there.



Master Sgt. Terry Upchurch chats with Senior Airman Katherine Davenport outside of the 506th EOSS headquarters.

"When we first got here, our facility was not meant for people to be in," he said. "There was E. Coli in the showers and we couldn't use them. We had to use bottled water for a while. We ate MREs for the first month. In Vietnam, there were barracks for us to sleep in, and showers for us to bathe in and a chow hall already up when I got there."

Another difference from then and now he said was in his experience.

"Then, the NCOs and senior NCOs took me under their wings; now, it's my turn," he said. "But here, just like in Vietnam, the teamwork has been great. Everyone understands that there is a job that must be done and they

get it done. No complaining; we just pull together and get whatever needs to be done. From the first-termer with two stripes to the commander, Lt. Col. Brian Jurkovic, we all work well as a team."

Earlier this year, he said he received the word that things would be heating up and that reservists would be needed to go to Iraq.

"I decided to volunteer, because I had my own business so it would be easier for me to go, and besides, one of the others was a school teacher and leaving would have created a void for the school," he said.

He also said communication is a big difference between then and now.

"I didn't have e-mail in

Vietnam," he said. "I could only get word back and forth to her every 10 days. Now, I can talk to my wife everyday."

Upchurch, after leaving the active-duty force in 1974, went into the law enforcement business full time until 1991.

"I decided to return to the service as a member of the Air National Guard in Florida," he said.

When Upchurch heard what was going on, he had a feeling that he would be called upon.

"I told my wife I had to go, and she understood," he said.

He said the improvements the base has made since he first got here have been unbelievable.

"I am so happy to be eating food off of a paper plate than from a brown bag," he said. "The dining facility is fantastic. Getting air conditioning was also great. When we first moved into the building, there was no glass in the windows and no running water ... the difference from then and now is like night and day."

Upchurch said that everyone he works with is great, even if they do take the chance every once in a while to joke with him. "At the Cantina, people call me 'Noah,'" he said. "But it's all good natured."

Scores and more

MLB standings*(as of Wednesday)***American League**

East	W	L	GB
NYN	63	40	-
BOS	63	42	2
TOR	54	52	10.5
BAL	50	53	13
TB	38	66	25.5

Central

KC	57	47	-
CHW	55	51	3
MIN	51	54	6.5
CLE	44	62	14
DET	28	76	29

West

SEA	64	42	-
OAK	61	45	3
ANA	52	52	11
TEX	43	63	21

National League

East	W	L	GB
ATL	70	36	-
PHI	58	47	11.5
FLA	58	49	12.5
MON	54	53	16.5
NYM	43	63	27

Central

HOU	57	49	-
STL	55	51	2
CHC	53	52	3.5
PIT	48	56	8
CIN	47	59	10
MIL	43	63	14

West

SF	67	39	-
ARI	56	51	11.5
LA	54	51	12.5
COL	56	53	12.5
SD	41	66	26.5

In other headlines...

Basketball ... The 2003 NBA regular season will include three games Dec. 25, the first game featuring Cleveland at Orlando.

Tennis ... Michael Chang will retire after the U.S. Open, scheduled to begin later this month in New York.

Chapel Schedule**Saturday**

7 p.m. -- Catholic Mass

Meeting2 p.m. -- Catholic Mass
(Sky Soldiers Chapel)

All services are held at the Ten Days From Tomorrow Chapel unless otherwise noted.

Sunday

8 a.m. -- Gospel Service

5:30 p.m. Liturgical

All times are subject to change.

9 a.m. -- Catholic Mass

7 p.m. Protestant Service

(Sky Soldier chapel)

10 a.m. -- General

Friday

Protestant

9 a.m. Catholic Mass

11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass

(Sky Soldier chapel)

1 p.m. -- Latter-Day Saints

Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and others should contact chapel administration for updates of their religious requirements and support.

Air Force members promoted in July

Congratulation to the following enlisted personnel who displayed their new rank for the first time Thursday at the promotion ceremony in the Sky Soldier theater.

Airman 1st Class

Jason Hoffman, 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

Senior Airman

Nancy Alexis, 506th Expeditionary Services Squadron

Juan Colon, Jr. 506th ESVS

Bien Covita, 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

Shawn Cranfield, 606th Air Control Squadron

Richard Donaldson, 506th ESVS

Kevin Fetrow, 506th ESFS

Saeed Garner, 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron

Tiffany Land, 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

William Miller, 506th ECES

William Unger, 728th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron

Aliany Yousef, 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron

Staff Sgt.

Jason Howland, 506th ECES

Freddie Jones, 506th ESVS

Roger Koehler, 506th ECS

Michelle Nie, 506th ECS

Robert Palmer, 606th ACS

Matthew Reichle, 506th ECES

Master Sgt.

Daryl Johnson, 506th ECES

Scott Wilson, 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

Chief Master Sgt.

Dennis Vannorsdall, 506th ESFS

EOD ordnance item of the week**BLU-63 Sub-munition**

These are small, aerially dispensed, shaped-charge, anti-material, anti-tank bombs. Though they may not look dangerous, they are extremely sensitive and personnel discovering these items should never disturb or touch them. Mark the area in accordance with the Airman's Manual, and contact the Kirkuk Explosive Ordnance Disposal with the location at 460-0903.



Photo courtesy of EOD

Commonly used phone numbers

ATOC	460-0038
BDOC	460-0960
CC Supt. Section ...	460-0099
CE Cust. Serv.	460-0021
Chaplain	460-0130
Command Chief	460-0052
Command Post.	460-0077
COMM Help Desk ...	460-0000
Contracting	460-0860
Dining Facility	460-0605
EMEDS	460-0502
EOD	460-0903
Fire Department	460-0030
Finance	460-0866
First Sergeant	460-0016
Legal	460-0117
Lodging	460-0123
Logistics Plans	460-0194
OSI	460-0800
PERSCO	460-0122
Public Affairs	460-0131
Protocol	460-0260
Safety	460-0090
Supply	460-0039

For a complete listing of all of the Kirkuk agencies, log onto the base's web page at <http://www.krab.aor-centaf.af.mil/Phonebooks.htm>.

What's Your Sign?

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Take control of the conversations in your tent. Only talk to people while in your underwear. Trust me, the conversations after that will only be about you.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Quit taking all the glory for other people's work. Use your power from within, as opposed to taking it from others.

Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22) Follow through on your promises. This is a great time to prove to others that you truly are the king of the lizard people.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Stay the course. Keep your focus on slacking off. Eventually your co-workers will give up and do it themselves.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) You do your best work when you're mad. Keep grumbling about Virgo sucking the life from you and you'll get through this.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20) It's time to let your creative side rule. Use new ideas to impress the boss. Insist that you just can't work under these conditions.

Aquarius (Jan. 21 - Feb. 18)

Remember the advice from the lady in the Denny's parking lot, "Keep your hands off me."

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Stop making excuses. Just admit to yourself that the Brady Bunch show sucked and you've wasted years of your life watching it.

Aries (Feb. 19 - March 20) Don't give up because others don't understand you. "Hello? Anybody home?" is just their way of saying how much they really appreciate your brown roots.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) This is the week the planets will line up just for you. See the way they make the big "L"?

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) Give the grumps at work a pep talk. Your cheerleading will eventually get them motivated and happy. Either that or they'll strap you to the hood of the car and do donuts in the BX parking lot.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) Don't take these too seriously. No one reads them anyway.

Local information

Being in a foreign country provides a unique opportunity to learn another country's language, history and culture.

Each week, we will have a couple of words or phrases or even questions that may come up during conversation with the locals.

The English words or phrase will be on the left, followed by the same phrase, in Arabic on the right.

The following are some common Arabic phrases that can help people communicate in the local's native tongue.

Hello -- "Marhaba"

How are you? -- "Keaf Halak"

It is going to be hot again today, isn't it? -- "Rah ykoon har elyoun, ma heech?"

Would you like some water? -- "Treed Maai?"

Freedom Air Base, Iraq -- "Matar Alhurreya"